

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A system for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, comprising:

a plurality of device agents, each device agent being assigned to collect association information from a corresponding set of access points in the wireless network and operable to collect the association information from the corresponding set of access points by querying the access points in the corresponding set of access points; and

a device manager adapted operable to receive the collected association information from the device agents, the device manager having a conflict resolution engine for resolving conflicting access point associations, associations;

wherein the association information from an access point includes comprising information identifying mobile units which are associated with the access point.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the association information from the access point also includes comprises address information of the mobile units which are associated with the access point, and point; and

the conflict resolution engine uses the address information to resolve conflicting access point associations to a mobile unit.

3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein:

the association information from the access point includes comprises time stamps associated with the association information, and information; and

the conflict resolution engine uses the time stamps to resolve conflicting access point associations to a mobile unit.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the conflict resolution engine resolves a conflict between the associations of a mobile unit to two or more access points.

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the conflict resolution engine requests appropriate ones of the device agents to query access points corresponding to the conflicting associations.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the conflict resolution engine uses network traffic statistics for a mobile device to resolve whether the device is associated with an access point.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the conflict resolution engine is rule-based.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The system of ~~claim 8~~ claim 1, wherein the device manager sends a request to a device agent to trigger the query process of the device agent.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a topology service adapted to provide, through a graphical user interface, a visualization of current associations between the access points and the mobile units, ~~through a graphical user interface~~.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the visualization is associated with a subnet.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the association information includes comprises identification of disassociated mobile units.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the association information included comprises information describing disassociation of a mobile unit from an access point.

14. (Currently amended) A method for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, comprising:

collecting association information from a plurality of access points in the wireless network by querying the plurality of access points for the association information, the association information from an access point including comprising information identifying mobile units which are associated with the access point; and

resolving conflicting access point associations through a conflict resolution engine.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising using network traffic statistics for a mobile device to resolve whether the device is associated with an access point.

Claims 16-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, comprising:

discovering wireless devices connected to the wireless network;

collecting association information from access points by querying the plurality of access points for the association information, the association information from an access point including comprising information identifying a current association between the access point and an associated wireless device; and

providing a visualization of current associations between the access points and corresponding associated wireless devices.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising tracking a mobile wireless device connected to the wireless network by using the collected association information.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

generating mobility information by consolidating the collected association information and resolving any conflicts in the collected information; and

logging the resolved mobility information.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting unauthorized rogue devices connected to the wireless network.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting unauthorized access points.

24. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising detecting disassociated mobile units.

Claims 25-27 (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A system for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, comprising:

a plurality of device agents, each device agent being assigned to collect association information from a corresponding set of access points in the wireless network and operable to collect the association information from the corresponding set of access points by querying the access points in the corresponding set of access points;

a device manager adapted to receive the collected association information from the plurality of device agents, the association information from an access point including comprising information identifying a current association between the access point and an associated wireless device; and

a topology service adapted to provide a visualization of access points and corresponding associated wireless devices.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the device manager assigns the access points to the plurality of device agents to balance a workload across the device agents.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the device agent regularly polls the corresponding set of access points to determine changes to associations of the access points.

31. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the device agent queries the corresponding set of access points to request association information from the access points.

32. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the device manager consolidates the collected information and resolves any conflicts in the collected information.

33. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the association information from the access point is retrieved from an association table maintained by the access point.

34. (New) Software for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, the software being embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed operable to:

collect association information from a plurality of access points in the wireless network by querying the plurality of access points for the association information, the association information from an access point comprising information identifying mobile units which are associated with the access point; and

resolve conflicting access point associations through a conflict resolution engine.

35. (New) A computer system for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, comprising:

a program storage device readable by the computer system, tangibly embodying a program of instructions; and

a processor operable to execute the program instructions to:

collect association information from a plurality of access points in the wireless network by querying the plurality of access points for the association information, the association information from an access point comprising information identifying mobile units which are associated with the access point; and

resolve conflicting access point associations through a conflict resolution engine.

36. (New) Software for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, the software being embodied in a computer-readable medium and when executed operable to:

discover wireless devices connected to the wireless network;

collect association information from access points by querying the plurality of access points for the association information, the association information from an access point comprising information identifying a current association between the access point and an associated wireless device; and

provide a visualization of current associations between the access points and corresponding associated wireless devices.

37. (New) A computer system for tracking and managing mobile devices in a wireless network, comprising:

a program storage device readable by the computer system, tangibly embodying a program of instructions; and

a processor operable to execute the program instructions to:

discover wireless devices connected to the wireless network;

collect association information from access points by querying the plurality of access points for the association information, the association information from an access point comprising information identifying a current association between the access point and an associated wireless device; and

provide a visualization of current associations between the access points and corresponding associated wireless devices.